

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1-4, 6-11 and 15-17 have been amended, and claims 5, 12-14 and 18-20 have been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1-4, 6-11 and 15-17 are pending in the present application.

The amendments to claims 3-4, 6-11 and 15-17 do not narrow the scope of these claims from those originally filed and have not been made to define over the prior art.

Claims 13-14 and 19-20 were objected to as being improper dependent claims. With the cancellation of claims 13-14 and 19-20, this objection is deemed moot.

Claims 3, 7 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In response, claims 3, 7 and 17 have been amended to be in full compliance with all §112 requirements. The amendments to claims 3, 7 and 17 do not narrow the scope of these claims from those originally filed and have not been made to define over the prior art. These amendments have merely been made to clarify the language used as originally filed. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 8-15 and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,188,360 to Kato et al. Claims 6-7 and 16-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,381,566 to Kane. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Among the limitations of independent claims 1 and 2 which are neither disclosed nor suggested in the prior art of record is an antenna device having "a plurality of primary radiators for radiating an electromagnetic wave for excitation to the resonance element array or for receiving an electromagnetic wave radiated from the resonance element array, each of the plurality of primary radiators being allocated to a respective portion of the plurality of resonance elements."

Because of the claimed structure, a more uniform amount of power is capable of being radiated to the plurality resonant elements because the effective length of the transmission distance from any of the plurality of primary radiators to its allocated portion of plurality of resonance elements is shortened. See also, page 18, line 18 to page 19, line 6 and Fig. 6 of the present application.

In contrast, each of Kato et al. and Kane teach the use of only a single primary radiator. In the antenna devices of Kato et al. and Kane, a single primary radiator radiates an electromagnetic wave to the resonance element using a transmission line. Because of this, it is necessary to lengthen the transmission line to allocate a portion of a plurality of resonance elements to the single primary radiator. When this is done, the resonant element furthest from the single primary radiator radiates an electromagnetic wave in a lower power than a closer resonant element, thereby resulting in an antenna device that has resonant elements radiating waves at different power levels.

Therefore, neither Kato et al. nor Kane, either alone or combined, teach or suggest the present invention as defined in independent claims 1 and 2. Accordingly, it

is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 2 patentably distinguish over the prior art of record.

Claims 4, 6, 7 and 17 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1 and include all of the limitations found therein. Claims 3, 8-11, 15 and 16 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 2 and include all of the limitations found therein. Each of these dependent claims includes additional limitations which, in combination with the limitations of the claims from which they depend, are neither disclosed nor suggested in the art of record. Accordingly, claims 3, 4, 6-11 and 15-17 are likewise patentable.

In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration of the amendments to claims 1-4, 6-11 and 15-17, and allowance of the present application with claims 1-4, 6-11 and 15-17 is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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